



Date: Tuesday, 3 November 2015

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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SOUTH PLANNING COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS

NOTE: This schedule reports only additional letters received before 10 am on the day before committee. Any items received on the day of Committee will be reported verbally to the meeting

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SOUTH PLANNING COMMITTEE**FURTHER SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS****Date: 3rd November 2015****NOTE: This schedule reports only additional letters received before 10am on the day of the committee.**

Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
5	14/03933/FUL (Meadowley)	Objector
<p>Two further objections have been received on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UK population is predicted to rise by nearly ten million by 2039; ludicrous to lose valuable agricultural land to solar panels when there are many other options such as brownfield sites, factory roof tops, unproductive land etc.- will spoil the landscape which should be protected for the enjoyment of tourists and residents of our lovely county- panels should be built down the sides of motorways not in beautiful fields		
5	14/03933/FUL (Meadowley)	CPRE (Bridgnorth District Group)
<p>Objects for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Land classification/grades clearly state that agricultural land up to and including grade 3(b) and (c) is good farm producing land and is protected. However, solar panel companies are increasingly using in their defence that it is only grade 3(b) or (c) land, but the fact remains that it is still good farm producing land.- Shropshire relies mainly on tourism for income, therefore tourists, visitors and users do not travel to see field after field of a blank. black expanse of panels spoiling the views in a special area.- The historical buildings and architectural features need protection. It is our inheritance and for our future generations.- Solar farms do not produce the amount of energy as claimed.- The National Grid does not have the capacity to store excess energy produced, therefore the landowner is paid twice, once for having solar panels on his land and again if the National Grid turn the supply off (compensation)- The sheer size of this solar farm proposal is out of scale and not acceptable for this area.		
5	14/03933/FUL (Meadowley)	Support
<p>Fourteen further letters of support have been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- fully support this excellent scheme which seeks to provide clean energy along with the continuation of long established family farming- solar power is by far the least intrusive and the most cost- effective method of renewable energy; it doesn't use up thousands of acres of farmland like anaerobic digesters- hard to see how any sensible person could object to this scheme, given the sensitive planning and location of the panels- the contribution to sustainable energy and sustainable farming is to be applauded and should assist in meeting the country's environmental targets and our overall energy needs		

- this is a fantastic way to create green carbon free electricity for thousands of homes
- the grass around the panels is grazed by sheep so it gives the farmer a double income
- the need for diversification away from agricultural products has never been greater as all of them have seen large falls in value. Cereals have halved in price over the last few years while cost of production has risen dramatically
- how can the livelihood of a farming family who have the chance of doing something with their own land to provide a stable income stream be put in jeopardy by a few ramblers and wealthy residents who might not like the site of a few panels in a field.
- we need the next generation of farmers to stay on the land. If the ramblers don't like the look of them they can look the other way for a few minutes while they walk past safe in the knowledge that this field is doing its bit to prevent climate change. It is climate change that is the big threat to Shropshire's green hills and food production ,if future generations are to see these hills as we have then somebody has to do something about carbon emissions; after all climate change has been caused by the rambling generation
- should be viewed as simply harvesting the sun
- agriculture in this day and age needs diversification in order for farming to be sustainable; no farmer wants to harm the land they work so hard to work and look after
- renewable energy sources should be supported to continue the development of alternative supplies
- would be very minimal impact to the surrounding communities and landscape and when the panels come to the end of their useful life they are removed returning the countryside to its original state. The site can and will be used for agricultural purposes during the life of the solar farm so there is no loss to the agricultural contribution of the land.
- have heard through school and the news about the dangers of climate change and how important it is to act upon it. And yet we still fail to follow through with our commitments to reduce carbon emissions. We seem happy to leave it for future generations to clear up the mess when it may already be too late.
- The land is currently being used to graze sheep, therefore the addition of solar panels would allow us to maximize its potential as not only would the sheep remain to graze and shelter underneath the panels but we would also be producing clean energy needed by all.
- Would provide clean energy along with the continuation of long established family farming.
- Should assist in meeting the country's environmental targets and our overall energy needs.
- Solar farms are a great addition to the look of the country
- Would produce sustainable power which is clean and silent for the benefit of many households
- The remoteness of this location and the minimal impact that the proposed development will have on the countryside and its amenities make it an ideal location for the planned installation
- Crucial to allow rural businesses to develop otherwise there will be no viable rural businesses or communities left in the area
- The landowners have been farming this land for generations, would not be making this application unless they believed it was in the best interests of the community, the farm and the environment
- The land is heavily sloping and stony with drainage issues and not particularly favourable to successful arable farming; the family have been using it primarily for animal grazing for a long period of time

- The landowners carry out fundraising farming walks for local groups and allow visits to view baby lambs and the proposal would have no impact upon this community based work.
- This is a small family farm at the heart of the local community; not a large scale profit-grabbing industrial-type farming family, but instead need all of our support to ensure they are able to stay farming at Upper Meadowley.

Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
5	14/03933/FUL (Meadowley)	Planning Officer

In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. The Committee report specifically refers to this requirement in para. 6.4.3. Section 6.4 of the report sets out the specific policies, guidance and legislation that is relevant to considering impacts upon the historic environment. These have also been taken into consideration by the Council's Historic Environment Officer, as confirmed in para. 4.1.9, in making their comments. Officers reiterate that Historic England has advised that the revised proposal does address its main area of concern as set out in its original consultation response. In addition, as set out in para. 4.1.9, the Council's Historic Environment Officer considers that the proposal will preserve the setting of heritage assets. Officers confirm that the recommendation to grant planning permission has been made having had special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of heritage assets in the area, as required by Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act. Officers consider that the development would not adversely affect the setting of heritage assets, and that this view is held even giving special regard to the desirability of preserving their setting.

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